US009237820B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Forbes et al.

(10) **Patent No.: US 9,237,820 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent: Jan. 19, 2016**

(54) **ORNAMENT ASSEMBLY WITH ATTACHMENT CLIP**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 13 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **14/323,625**

(22) Filed: **Jul. 3, 2014**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2015/0017382 A1 Jan. 15, 2015

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 61/843,601, filed on Jul. 8, 2013.

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A47G 33/10 (2006.01)
A47G 33/08 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC ***A47G 33/10*** (2013.01); ***A47G 33/08*** (2013.01); *A47G 2033/089* (2013.01); *A47G 2033/0827* (2013.01); *Y10T 29/49895* (2015.01); *Y10T 428/24008* (2015.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC Y10T 428/24008; A47G 33/10; F16L 3/1203; F16M 13/022
See application file for complete search history.

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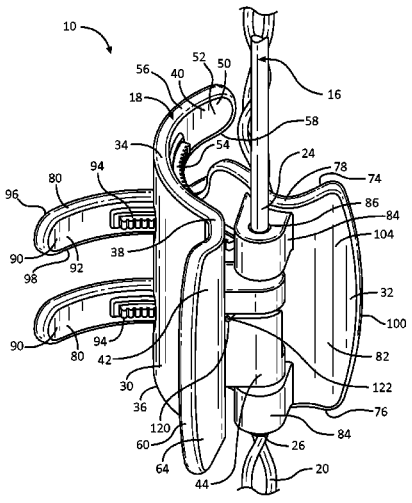
(57) **ABSTRACT**

An ornament assembly includes an attachment clip, an elongated shaft, and an ornament. The attachment clip includes a first jaw and a second jaw. The first jaw includes a first spine and a first finger extending from the first spine. The second jaw includes a second spine and a second finger extending from the second spine toward the first finger. The elongated shaft includes a first end and a second end. The second end of the elongated shaft is coupled to each of the first spine and the second spine such that at least one of the first jaw and the second jaw rotates about the elongated shaft to move the attachment clip between an open position and a closed position. The ornament is coupled to the first end of the elongated shaft such that the ornament is spaced from the attachment clip via a length of the elongated shaft.

18 Claims, 13 Drawing Sheets



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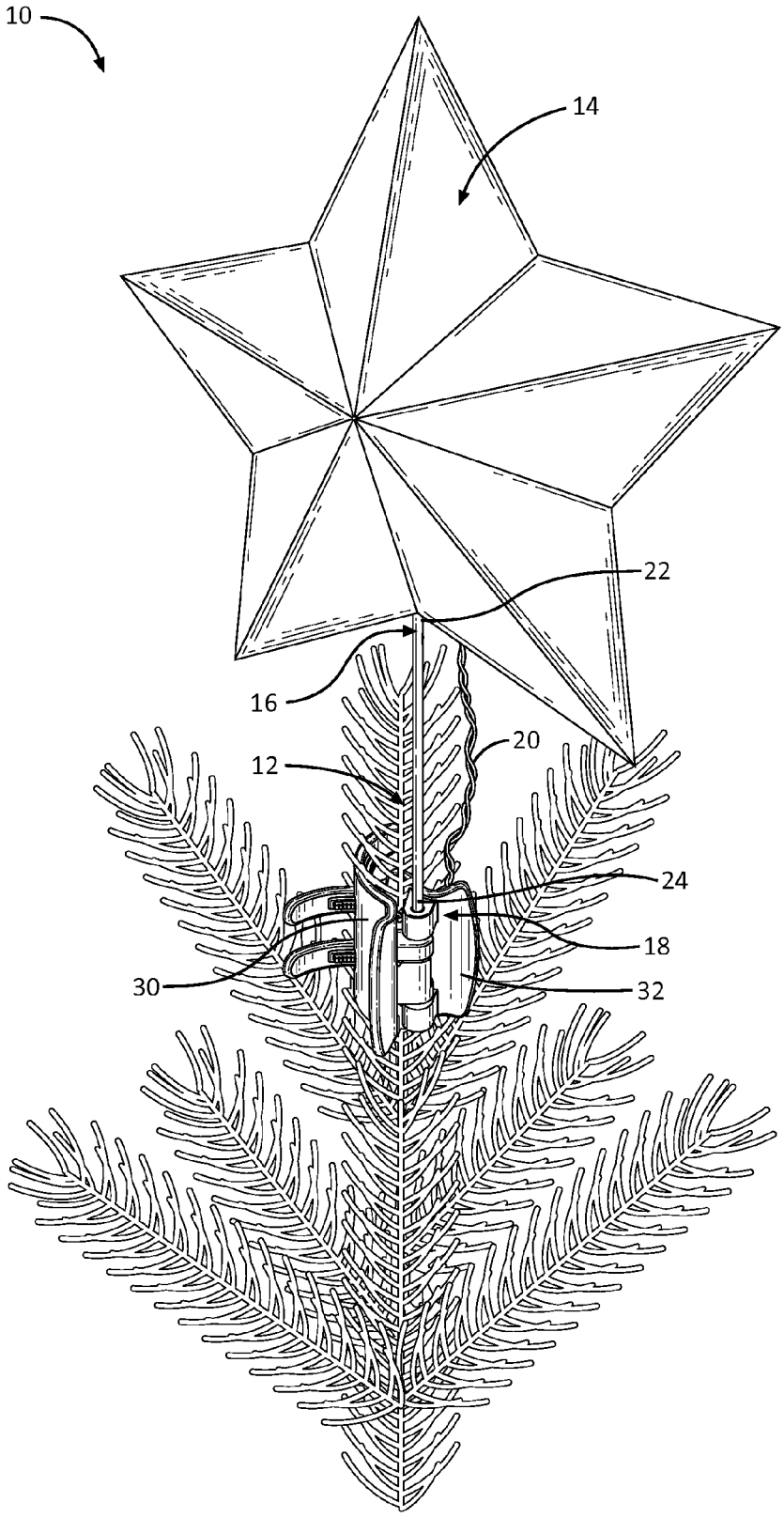

FIG. 1

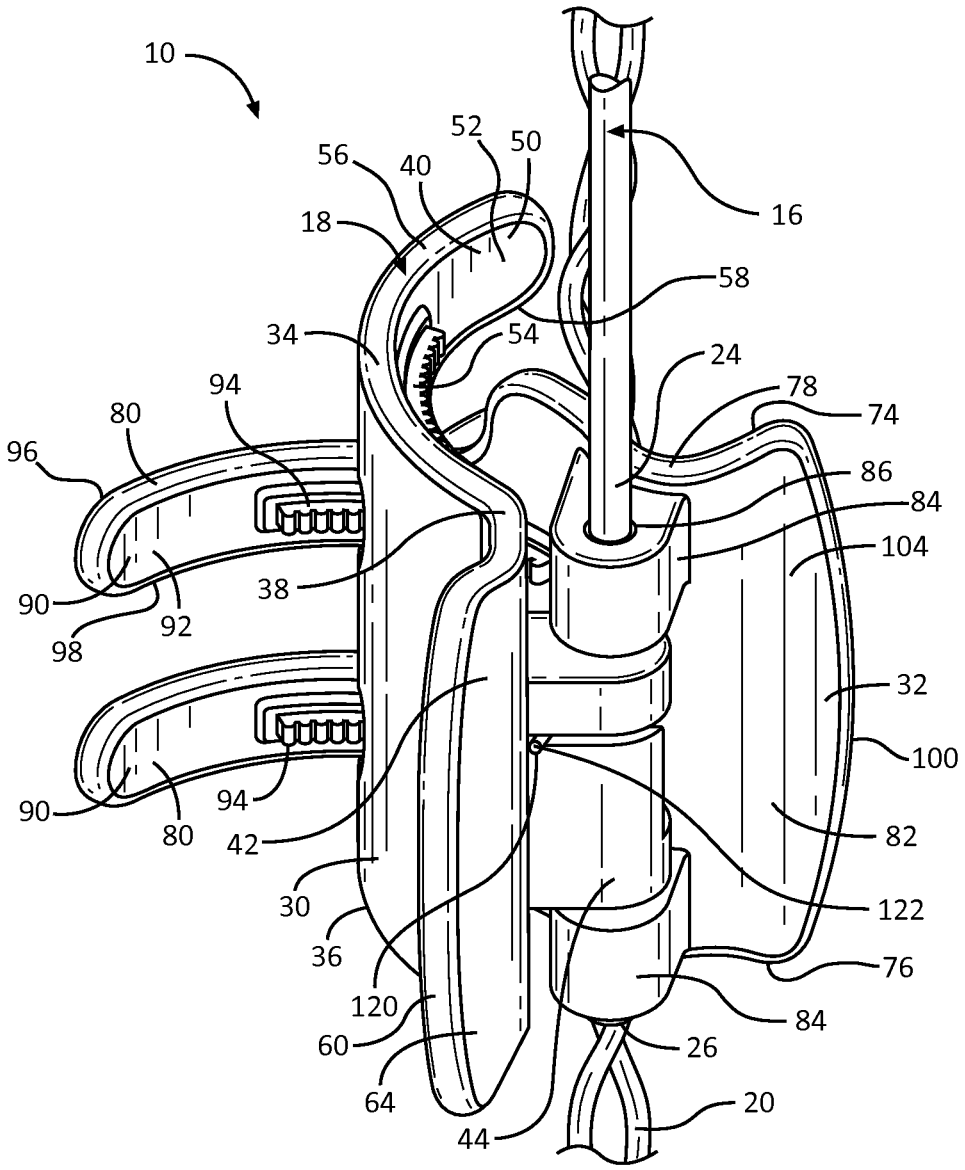
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FIG. 2

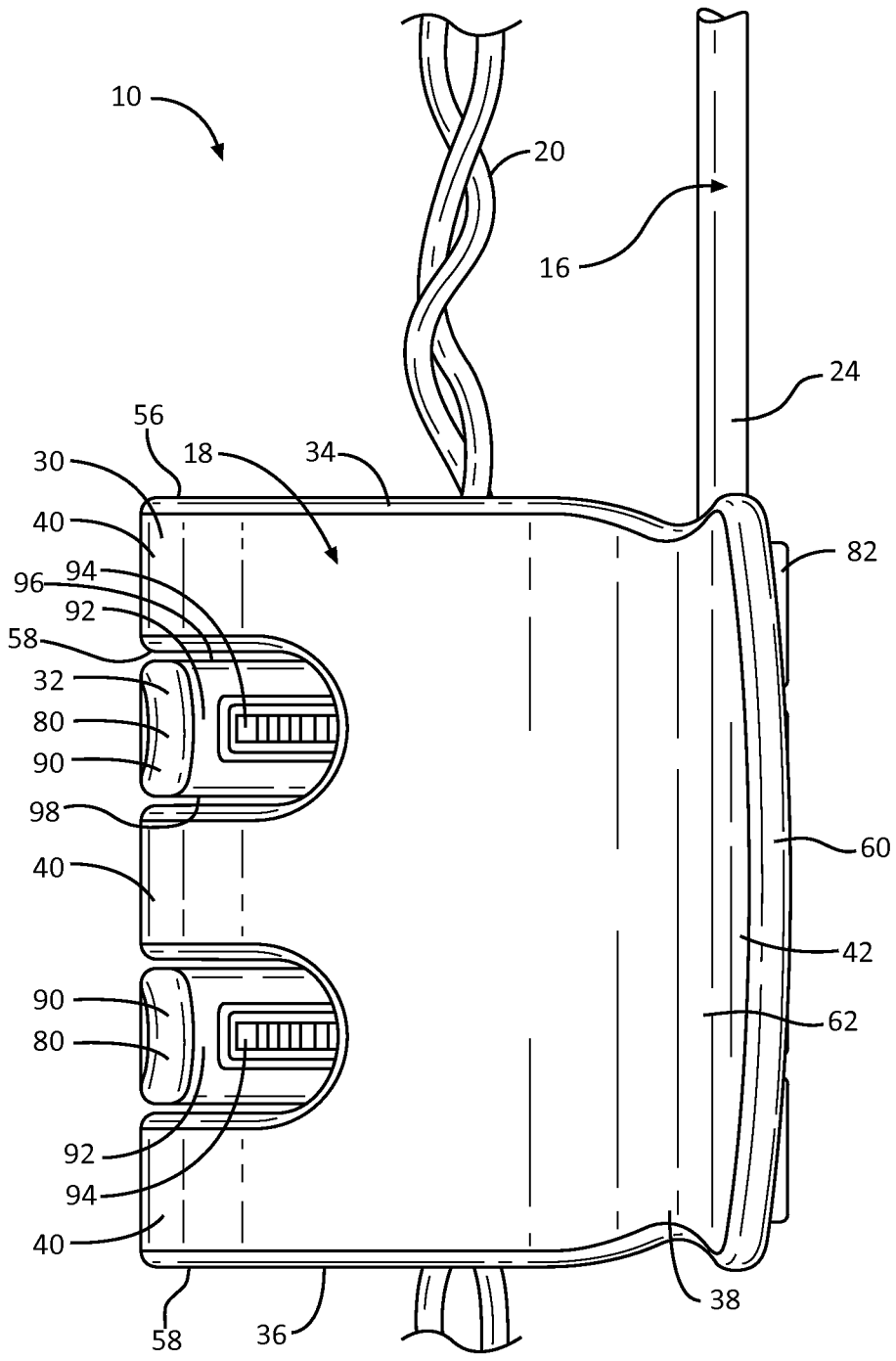
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FIG. 3

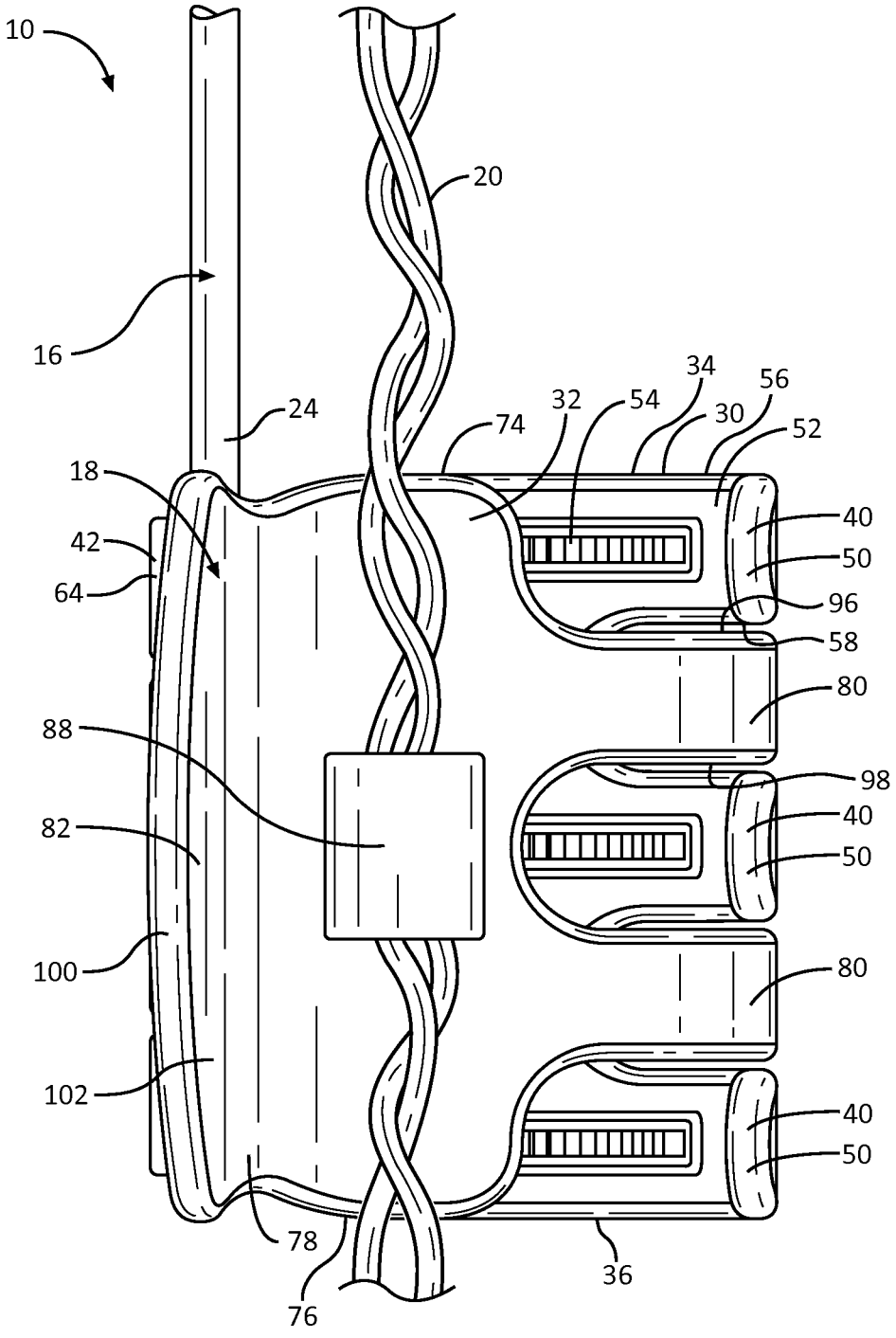
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FIG. 4

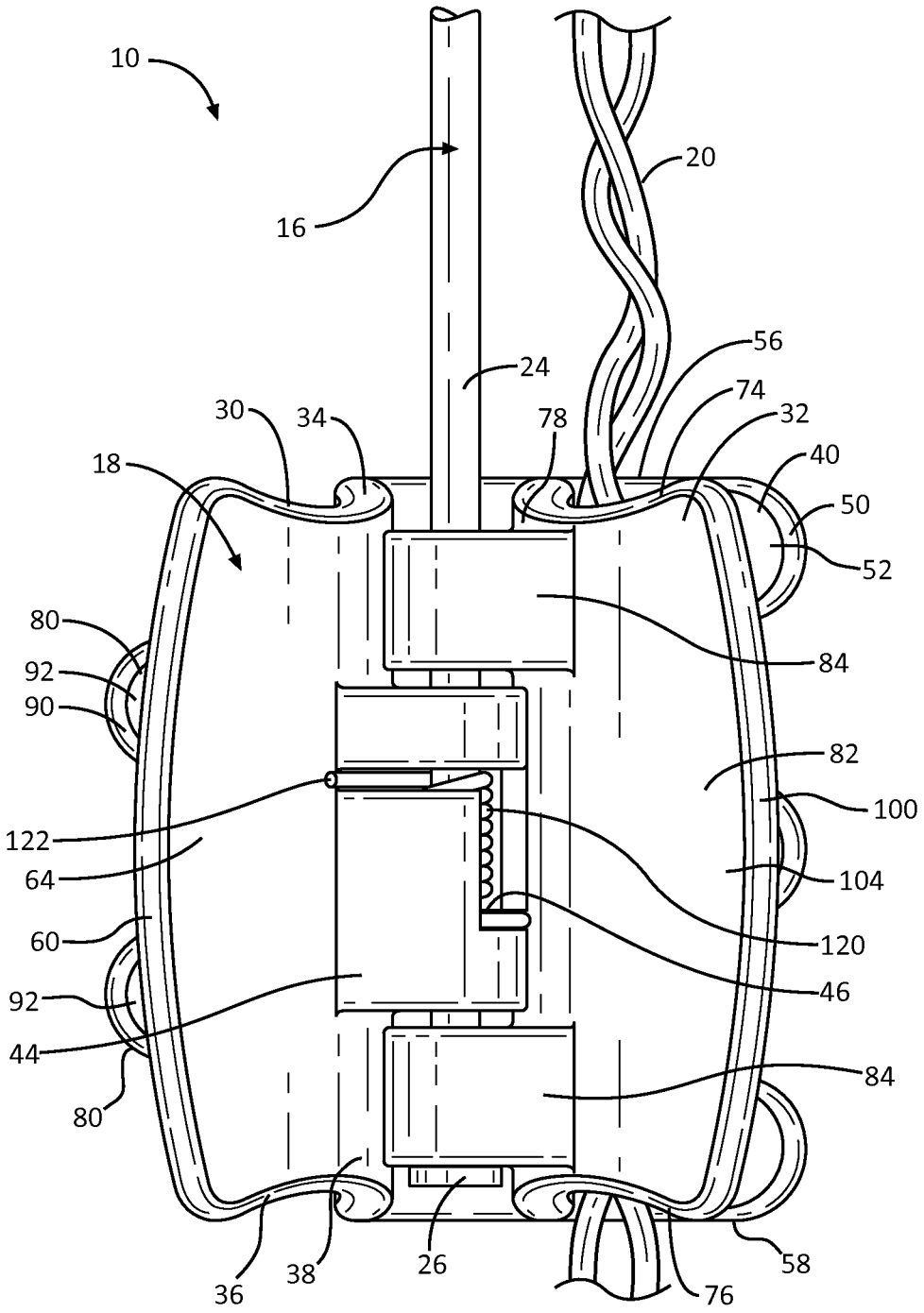
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FIG. 5

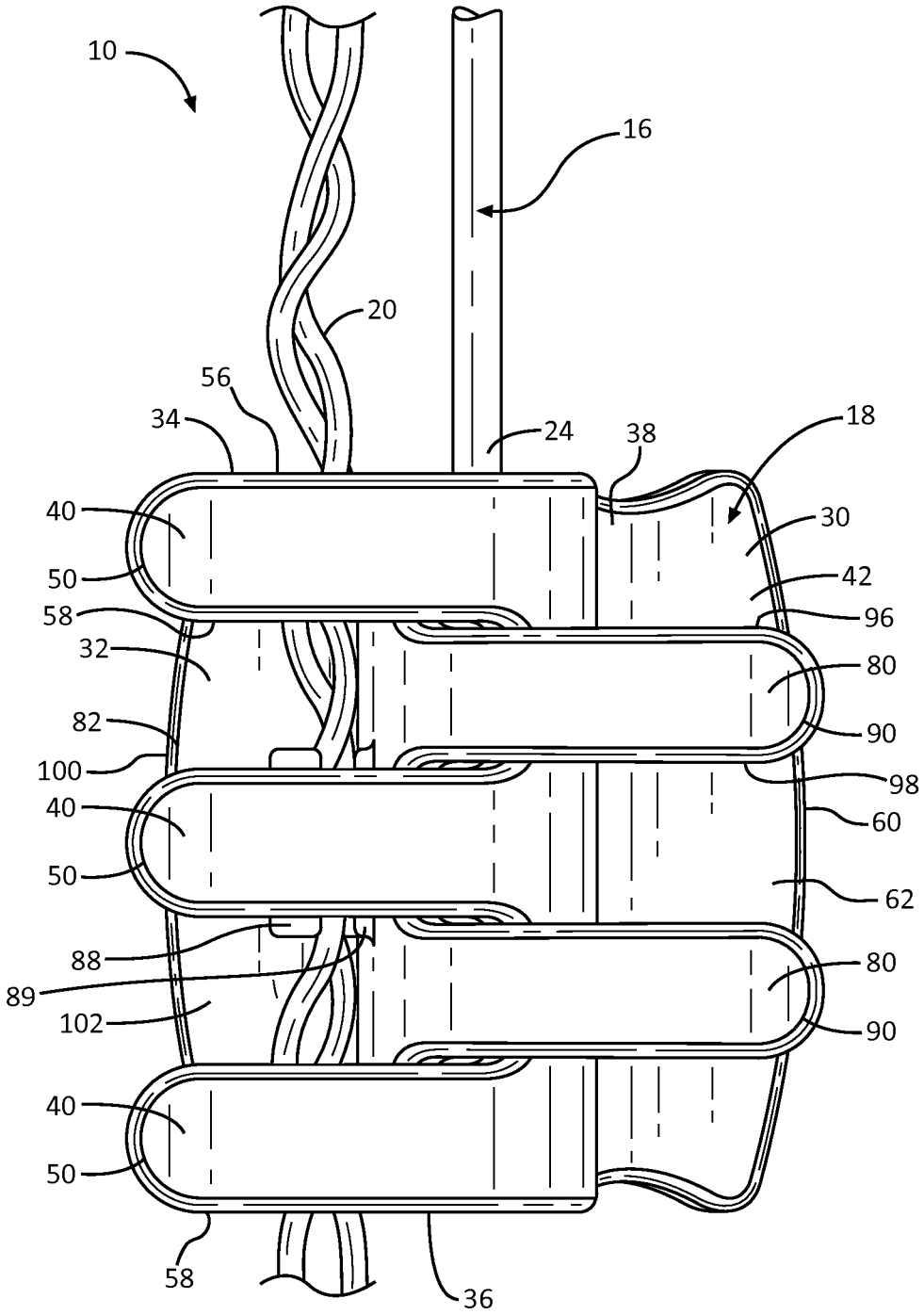
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FIG. 6

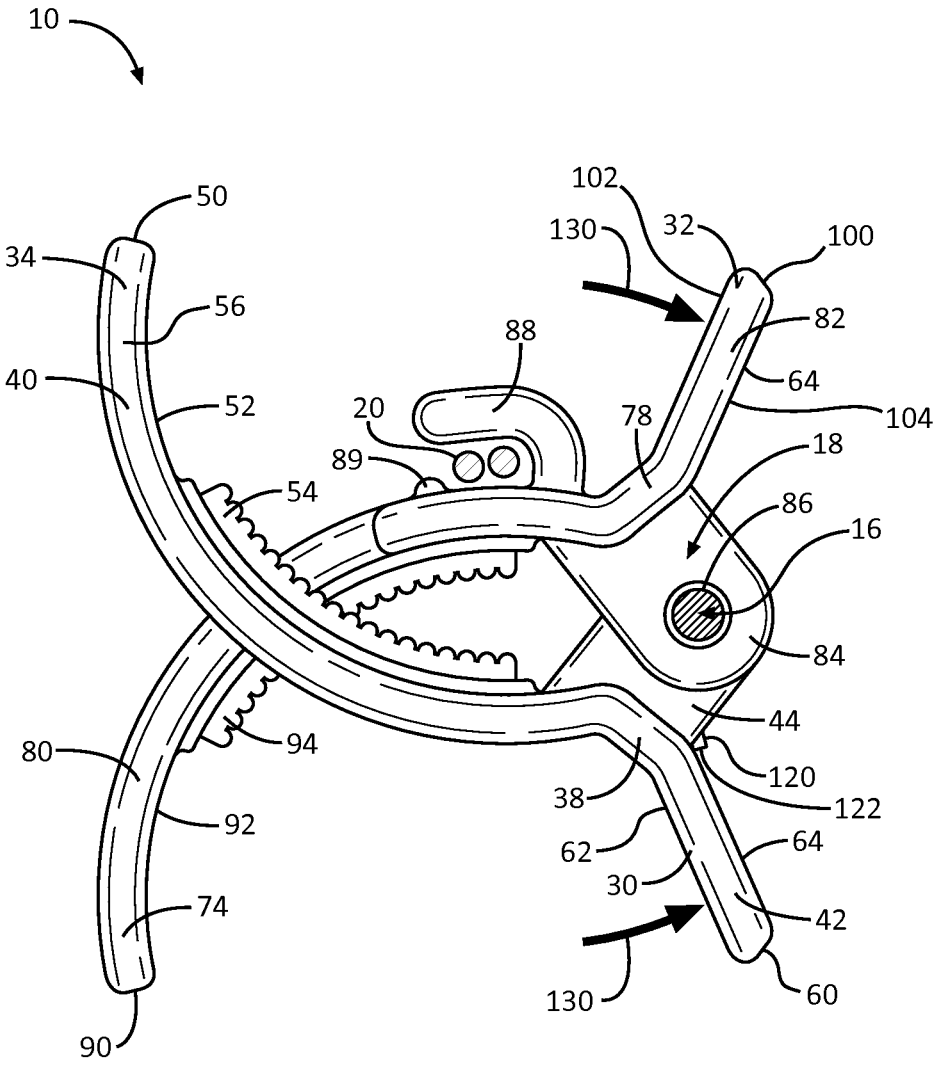
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FIG. 7

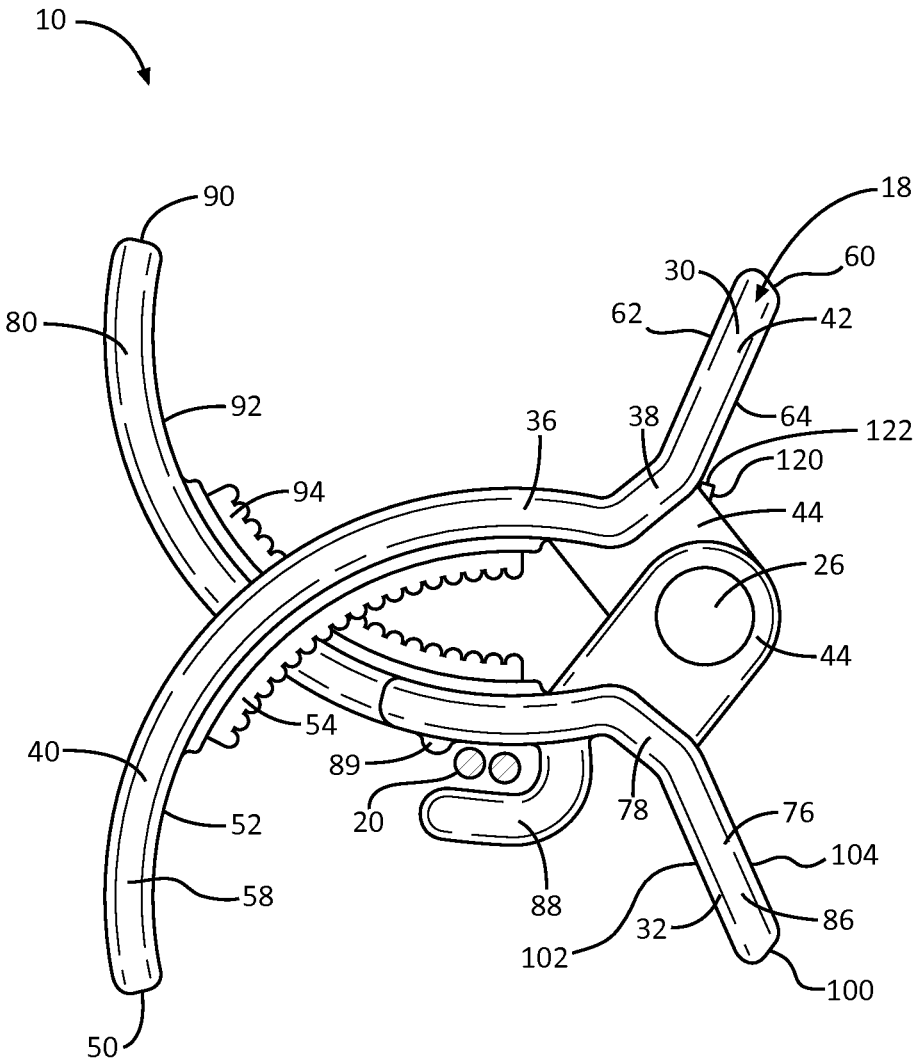
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FIG. 8

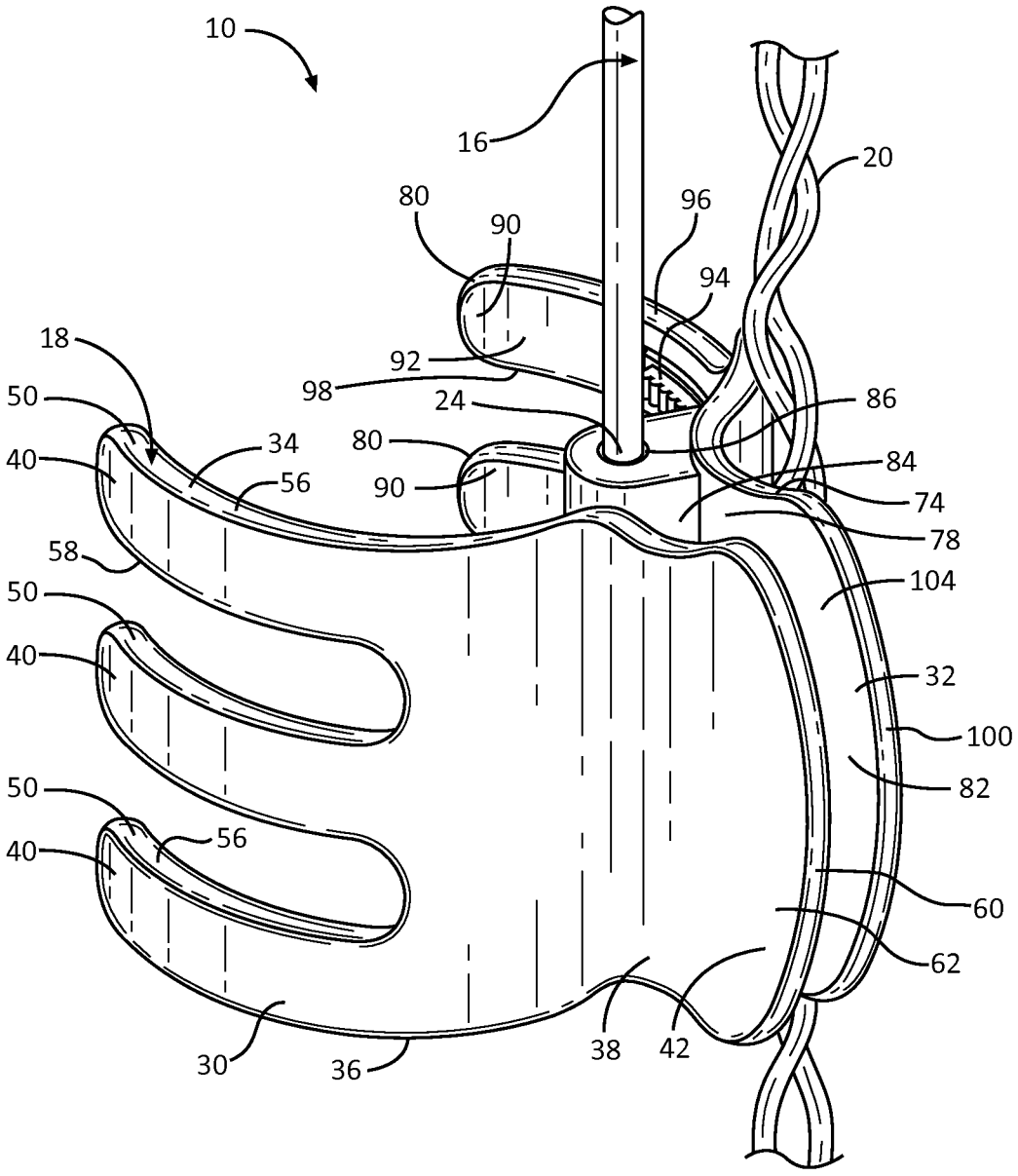
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FIG. 9

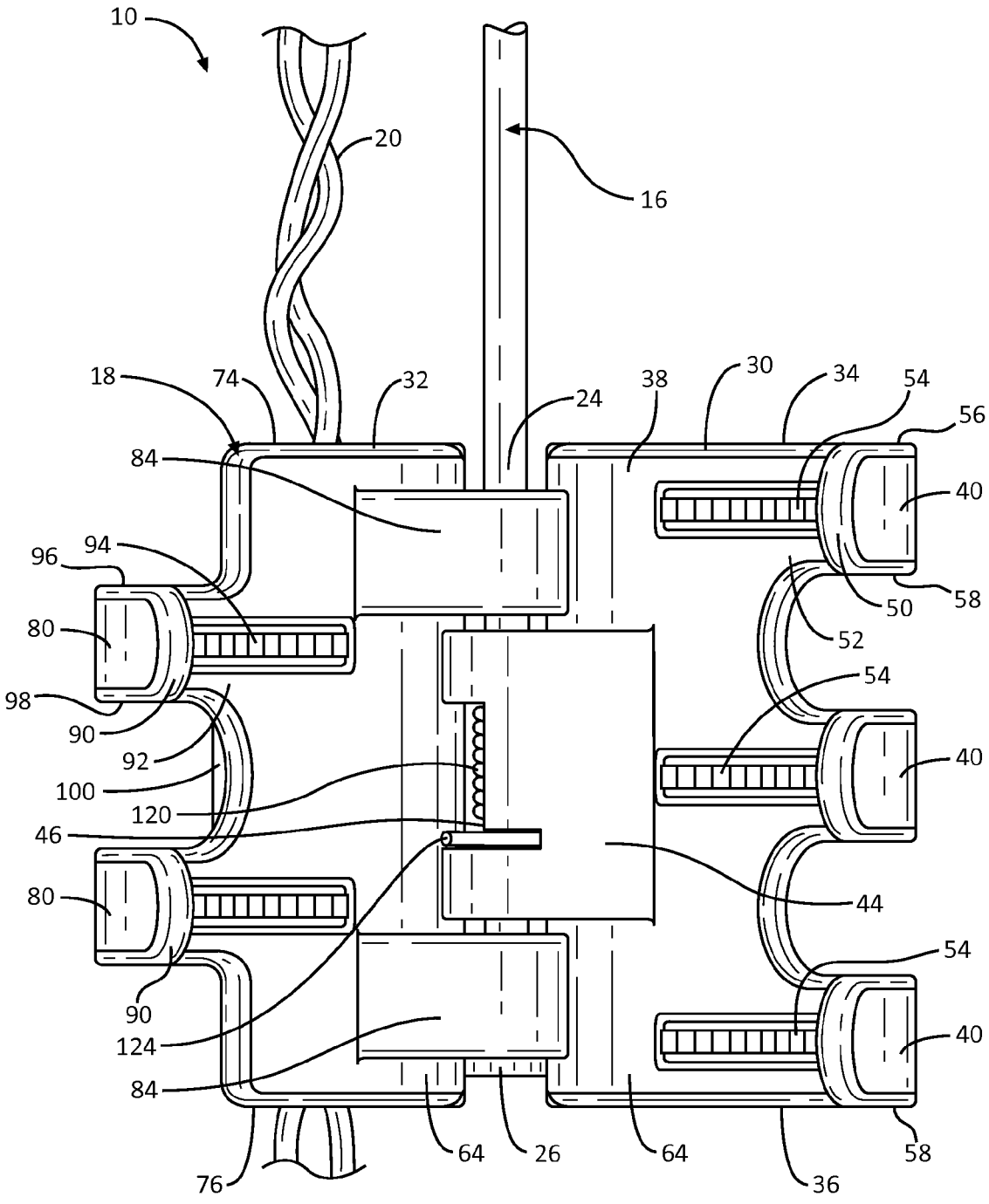
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FIG. 10

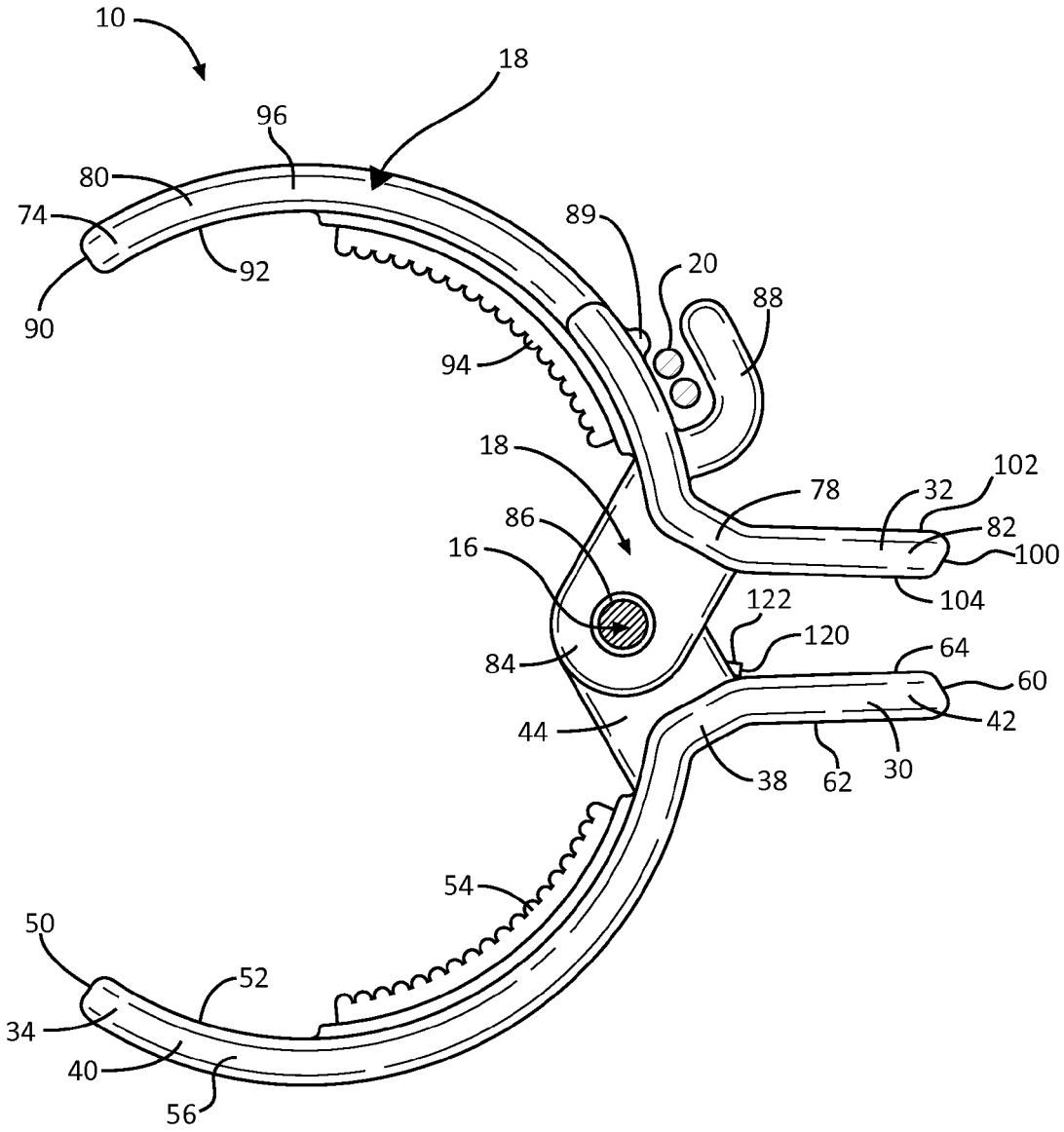
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FIG. 11

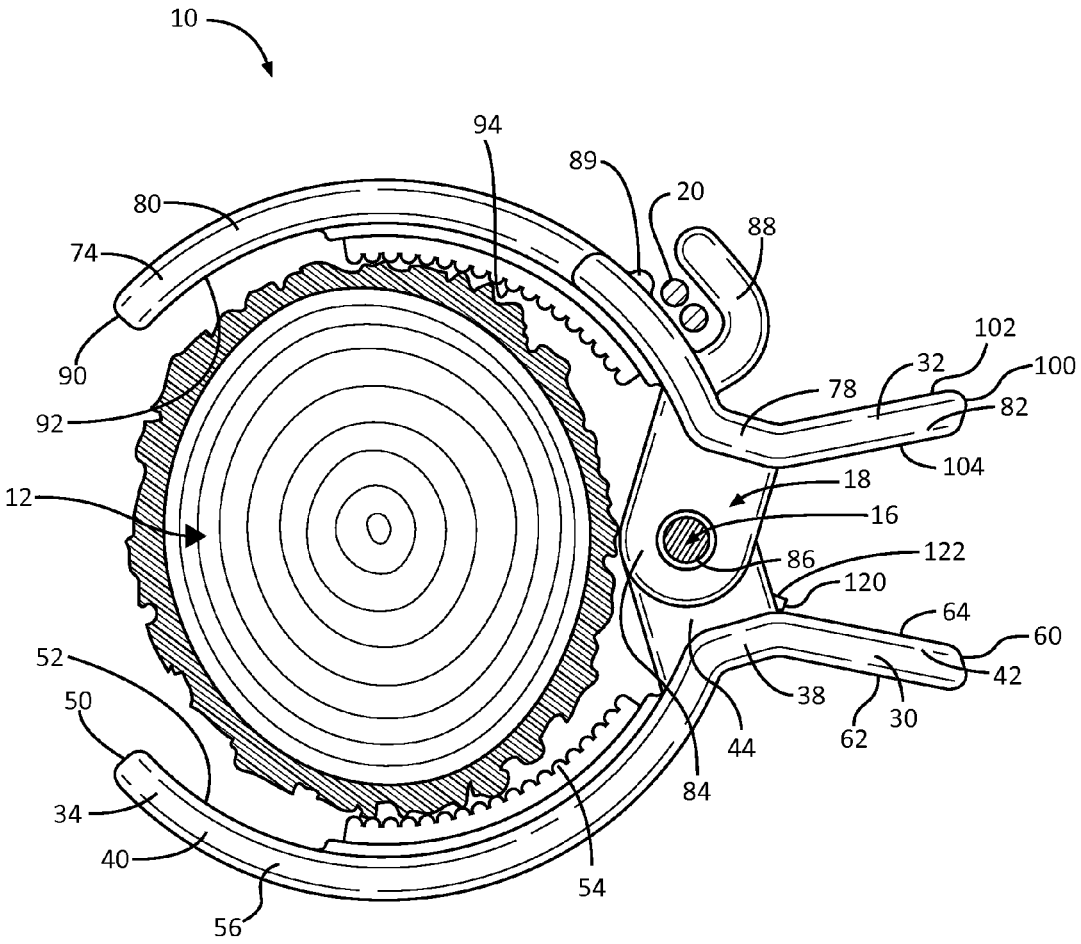
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FIG. 12

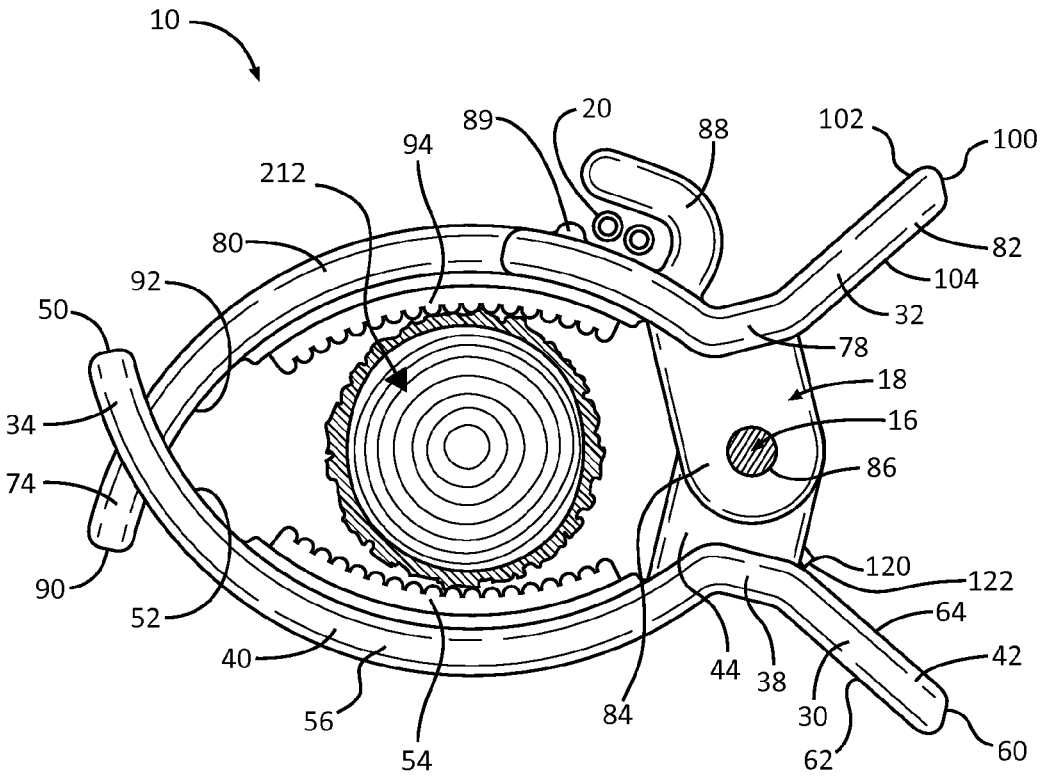
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FIG. 13

ORNAMENT ASSEMBLY WITH ATTACHMENT CLIP

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a non-provisional application of and claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/843,601, filed Jul. 8, 2013, which is incorporated herein by reference.

This application is related to U.S. Design patent application Ser. No. 29/460,102, filed Jul. 8, 2013, now D736075.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Seasonal decorating has long been a tradition across many cultures. Decorating efforts are often at their peak during the holiday seasons, for example, when Christmas trees become the center of many homes. Ornaments and decorations of a plurality of types are placed to adorn the trees. A feature ornament, such as a star or angel, is typically placed on the highest branch as a tree top decoration. Placement of the feature ornament at the top of the tree is a rather challenging undertaking as it can often be difficult to balance an ornament in a desired upright manner in a desired position above the tree while simultaneously coupling the ornament to the tree. Similar issues apply to the selective coupling of ornaments and decorations throughout homes, businesses, or other suitable environments.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

One example of an ornament assembly according to the present invention includes an attachment clip, an elongated shaft, and an ornament. The attachment clip includes a first jaw, which includes a first spine and a first finger curvilinearly extending from the first spine, and a second jaw, which includes a second spine and a second finger curvilinearly extending from the second spine toward the first finger. The elongated shaft includes a first end and a second end opposite the first end. The second end of the elongated shaft is coupled to each of the first spine and the second spine such that at least one of the first jaw and the second jaw rotates about the elongated shaft to move the attachment clip between an open position, in which the first finger and the second finger are spaced from one another, and a closed position, in which the first finger and the second finger are positioned adjacent one another. The ornament is coupled to the first end of the elongated shaft such that the ornament is spaced from the attachment clip via a length of the elongated road. Other assemblies, clips, methods, etc. are also disclosed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Embodiments of the invention will be described with respect to the figures, in which like reference numerals denote like elements, and in which:

FIG. **1** is a front, perspective view illustration of an ornament with an attachment clip coupling the ornament to a tree branch, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **2** is a perspective view illustration of the attachment clip of FIG. **1** in a closed position, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **3** is a front view illustration of the attachment clip of FIG. **1** in the closed position, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **4** is a rear view illustration of the attachment clip of FIG. **1** in the closed position, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **5** is a right side view illustration of the attachment clip of FIG. **1** in the closed position, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **6** is a left side view illustration of the attachment clip of FIG. **1** in the closed position, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **7** is a top view illustration of the attachment clip of FIG. **1** in the closed position, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **8** is a bottom view illustration of the attachment clip of FIG. **1** in the closed position, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **9** is a perspective view illustration of the attachment clip of FIG. **1** in an open position, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **10** is a left side view illustration of the attachment clip of FIG. **1** in a closed position, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **11** is a top view illustration of the attachment clip of FIG. **1** in a closed position, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **12** is a top view illustration of the attachment clip of FIG. **1** clamped around a tree branch, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **13** is a top view illustration of the attachment clip of FIG. **1** clamped around a tree branch, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The present invention relates to an attachment device for securely coupling an ornament to a branch of a tree or other support member. The attachment device is, in one embodiment, an attachment clamp or clip coupled to the ornament via an elongated shaft. The attachment clip is formed of two jaws, and each of the two jaws is rotatable relative to the other about the elongated shaft to selectively wrap around the support member. The attachment clip jaws are biased toward one another in a closed position, in which the attachment clip jaws selectively wrap around the support member. In one embodiment, each attachment clip jaw includes curved fingers that are at least partially interposed with the curved fingers of the other attachment clip jaw when the attachment clip is closed. In one example, a row of teeth or grips extends along a length of each curved finger of the attachment clip to facilitate the attachment clip in grasping the support member and decreasing slippage of the clip along the support member, especially when the ornament has a fairly substantial weight. In one example, the elongated shaft maintains the clip spaced from the corresponding ornament a desired distance.

Turning to the Figures, FIG. **1** illustrates an ornament assembly **10** coupled to a support member, e.g., a tree branch **12**. Ornament assembly **10** includes an ornament **14** or other decorative element, an elongated shaft **16**, and an attachment clamp or clip **18**. Ornament **14** is, in one example, a tree topper or other tree decoration such as a Christmas or another holiday decoration. In one example, ornament **14** includes lighting, sound, or other feature(s) (not shown) requiring electrical power such that ornament **14** includes an electrical cord **20** extending from any electrical feature thereof. In one embodiment, electrical cord **20** extends down from ornament **14** along elongated shaft **16** to an electrical plug or other power source interface (not shown) opposite ornament **14**.

Elongated shaft **16** is a cylindrical or otherwise suitably shaped, substantially rigid rod, for example, formed as a single piece of plastic and/or metal with a continuous cross-sectional shape. Elongated shaft **16** extends between a first end **22** and a second end **24**, which is opposite first end **22**, to define a length as desired to space ornament **14** from its attachment to tree branch **12** via attachment clip **18**. In one example, elongated shaft **16** has a length of between two inches and eighteen inches, such as between 6 inches and 12 inches depending on a type of ornament **14** and/or a desired end positioning of ornament **14**. For instance, a length of elongated shaft **16** may be larger for a tree topper type of ornament **14** than for any ornament **14** configured for attachment to an interior tree branch **12**. Elongated shaft **16** is sufficiently rigid so as to maintain its structural integrity while holding up ornament **14**.

First end **22** of elongated shaft **16** is coupled to ornament **14**, for example, by moving first end **22** of elongated shaft **16** into an opening or other reception portion (not shown) of ornament **14** for a friction fit coupling, via a suitable attachment mechanism or device, and/or in any other suitable manner. In one example, elongated shaft **16** includes a stop **26** at second end **24** that has a larger overall diameter than a remainder of elongated shaft **16**. Stop **26** is configured to at least partially maintain a position of attachment clip **18**, which extends around second end **24** of elongated shaft **16** following assembly, relative to elongated shaft **16** as will be further described below.

Attachment clip **18** is configured to be coupled to second end **24** of elongated shaft **16** opposite first end **22**, and therefore, opposite ornament **14**. Upon assembly, attachment clip **18** selectively opens to receive and selectively closes to be clamped to tree branch **12**. For example, FIGS. **2-8** illustrate a portion of ornament assembly **10** including attachment clip **18** in a clamped or closed position and FIGS. **9-11** show the same portion of ornament assembly **10** in a release or opened position. In one embodiment, attachment clip **18** includes a first member or first jaw **30** and a second member or second jaw **32** each hingedly coupled about second end **24** of elongated shaft **16**. In this manner, elongated shaft **16** serves as an axle for rotation of first and second jaws **30** and **32** as well as a spacer between attachment clip **18** and ornament **14**.

In one example, first jaw **30** defines a top edge **34** and a bottom edge **36** opposite top edge **34**. First jaw **30** includes a spine **38**, one or more fingers **40** (for example, two or more fingers **40**), and a handle portion **42**. Each of spine **38**, fingers **40**, and handle portion **42** vertically extend from top edge **34** to bottom edge **36**. Spine **38** receives elongated shaft **20**, and each of two or more fingers **40** and handle portion **42** extends in an opposite direction from spine **38**.

In one example, spine **38** includes at least one protruding portion **44** extending inwardly from a remainder of spine **38** toward second end **24** of elongated shaft **20**. More specifically, where first jaw **30** includes two or more protruding portions **62**, each protruding portion **44** extends away from a remainder of spine **38** a substantially identical distance and/or extends substantially parallel to each other, according to one embodiment. The substantially identical distance is at least twice a diameter of elongated shaft **14**, in one example. As illustrated in the figures, in one embodiment, spine **38** includes a single protruding portion **44**. In one embodiment, the at least one protruding portion **44** is substantially centered between top edge **34** and bottom edge **36**, however, other protruding portion **44** positions are also contemplated. Each protruding portion **44** further includes an aperture (not shown) substantially vertically extending therethrough and coaxially positioned relative to any other aperture(s) formed in a different one of protruding portions **44** of first jaw **30**. In one example, one or more of protruding portions **44** includes a cutout **46** (see FIGS. **5** and **10**) such that the one of protruding portions **44** does is not continuous from a top to a bottom edge thereof along elongated shaft **16**, thereby, leaving a portion of elongated shaft **16** adjacent protruding portion **44** at least partially exposed.

First jaw **30** includes two or more fingers **40** extending in a curvilinear manner from the corresponding spine **38** to opposite free ends **50** thereof. Each finger **40** extends from spine **38** in an arched or curvilinear manner toward second jaw **32**. Fingers **40** are each generally narrow and elongated. Fingers **40** are each substantially identical and are vertically or longitudinally offset from one another a distance at least equal to a height of each finger **40**, in one embodiment. In one example, each finger **40** defines an internal surface **52** with at least a single linear row of teeth **54** extending along a portion of a length of the respective finger **40**. In one embodiment, a different row of teeth **54** extends along a at least a majority, that is at least about fifty percent of a length of each finger **40**, or, in one example, a substantial entirety of a length of each finger **40**, for instance, at least sixty percent of the length of each of finger **40**. Each tooth **50** is a projection being at least partially spaced from adjacent ones of teeth **54**, in one embodiment. Additionally referring to the top view of FIG. **12** and as will be further described above, teeth **54** provide attachment clip **18** with a non-planar surface for grasping tree branch **12** in a more secure manner. Teeth **54** may each be rounded, pointed, or otherwise suitably shaped to provide an overall intermittent contact surface for interfacing with a support as will be further described below.

Each of fingers **40** includes a top edge **56** and a bottom edge **58** opposite and, in one example, substantially parallel to top edge **56**. In one example, top edge **56** of a topmost one of fingers **40** is substantially coterminous, and in one embodiment, collinear, with top edge **34** of first jaw **30** and/or bottom edge **58** of a bottommost one of fingers **40** is substantially coterminous, and in one embodiment, collinear, with bottom edge **36** of first jaw **30**. The row of teeth **54** of each of fingers **40**, in one example, extends substantially parallel to and is spaced from each of the corresponding top edge **56** and bottom edge **58**. In one embodiment, the row of teeth **54** of each finger **40** is centered between each of the corresponding top edge **56** and corresponding bottom edge **58** of the corresponding finger **40**. Such positioning of row of teeth **54** on each finger **40** places teeth **54** in an inconspicuous location and spaces the various rows of teeth **54** to provide for a rotationally and linearly secure coupling of attachment clip **18** to tree branch **12** (FIGS. **1** and **12**).

Handle portion **42** of first jaw **30** extends away from spine **38** and, in one example, is curved, angled, flared, or otherwise transitioned outwardly in a direction away from fingers **40** and away from second jaw **32**, as considered upon assembly of attachment clip **18**, to a longitudinally extending free edge **60**. Since handle portion **42** is positioned on an opposite side of spine **38** relative to fingers **40**, handle portion **42** is configured for user interaction therewith such that user interaction with handle portion **42** causes corresponding inverse movement of fingers **40** as first jaw **30** is rotated about elongated shaft **16**. For instance, as handle portion **42** of first jaw **30** is moved toward the second jaw **32**, fingers **40** of first jaw **30** move away from second jaw **32**. In this manner handle portion **42** may be formed in any suitable manner to encourage easy user interaction therewith to manipulated fingers **40** of attachment clip **118** during use. In one example, handle portion **42** presents a broad and angular planar external surface **62** for easy grasping or pushing by a user. Handle portion **42**

additionally defines an internal surface **64** opposite external surface **62** and facing second jaw **32**.

In one example, second jaw **32** has largely similar structure as first jaw **30** other than the specific differences noted below and illustrated in the figures. Second jaw **32** defines a top edge **74** and a bottom edge **76** opposite top edge **74**. In one embodiment, second jaw **32** includes a spine **78**, one or more fingers **80** (for example, two or more fingers **80**), and a handle portion **82**. Each of spine **78** and handle portion **82** vertically extend from top edge **74** to bottom edge **76**, and in one example, each of the two or more fingers **80** are offset from both of top edge **74** and bottom edge **76**. Spine **78** receives elongated shaft **20**, and each of two or more fingers **80** and handle portion **82** extends in an opposite direction from spine **78**.

In one example, spine **78** includes at least one protruding portion **84**, for instance, as illustrated at least two protruding portions **84**, extending inwardly from a remainder of spine **78** toward second end **24** of elongated shaft **20**. More specifically, where second jaw **32** includes two or more protruding portions **102**, each protruding portion **84** extends away from a remainder of spine **78** a substantially identical distance and/or extends substantially parallel to each other, according to one embodiment. The substantially identical distance is at least twice a diameter of elongated shaft **16**, in one example. In one embodiment, the at two protruding portions **84** are collectively substantially centered between top edge **74** and bottom edge **76**; however, other protruding portion **84** positions are also contemplated. In one example, the two protruding portions **84** are spaced from each other a distance substantially equal to but greater than a height of protruding portion **44** of first jaw **30**. Each protruding portion **84** further includes an aperture **86** (see, e.g., FIG. **2**) substantially vertically extending therethrough and coaxially positioned relative to any other aperture formed in a different one of protruding portions **84** of second jaw **32** and, upon assembly, to a corresponding aperture (not shown) in a protruding portion **44** of first jaw **30**.

In one example, spine **78** additionally includes an external hook **88** extending from a surface of spine **78** opposite the at least one protruding portion **84**. Hook **88** extends outwardly from a remainder of spine **78** and then over and spaced from a portion of the surface to form a cavity for receiving any cord **20** that extends from ornament **14**, for example, where ornament **14** makes use of electricity for lights, sound, or other effects. In one embodiment, an additional bump or protruding nub **89** is formed near an open end of hook **88** and extends outwardly from outer surface of spine **78** to further facilitate maintenance of cord **20** in hook **88**. Hook **88** holds cord **20** close to elongated shaft **16** and attachment clip **18**, thereby, holding cord **20** close to tree branch **12** such that it is largely hidden from obvious viewing and/or does not provide other substantial aesthetic detraction to the decorated tree or other area. As such, not only does attachment clip **18** hold ornament **14** to tree branch **12**, but attachment clip **18** also aids in hiding cord **20** or at least diminishing the visual impact of cord **20** on tree branch **12** and/or ornament. While primarily described and illustrated as being included on second jaw **32**, in one example, external hook **88** and/or protruding nub **89** are additionally or alternatively included on first jaw **30**, for example, adjacent spine **38**.

Second jaw **32** includes two or more fingers **80** extending in a curvilinear manner from the corresponding spine **78** to opposite free ends **90** thereof. Each finger **80** extends from spine **78** in an arched or curvilinear manner toward first jaw **30**. Fingers **80** are each generally narrow and elongated. Fingers **80** are each substantially identical and are vertically or longitudinally offset from one another a distance at least equal to a height of each finger **40**. In one example, each finger **80** defines an internal surface **92** with at least a single linear row of teeth **94**, for example, teeth **94** that are substantially identical to teeth **54**, extending along a portion of a length of the respective finger **80** and **82**. In one embodiment, a different row of teeth **94** extends along a at least a majority, that is at least about fifty percent of a length of each finger **80**, or, in one example, a substantial entirety of a length of each finger **80**, for instance, at least sixty percent of the length of each of finger **80**. Each tooth **94** is a projection being at least partially spaced from adjacent ones of teeth **94**, in one embodiment. Additionally referring to the top view of FIG. **12** and as will be further described above, teeth **94** provide attachment clip **18** with a non-planar surface for grasping tree branch **12** or other support in a more secure manner. Teeth **94** may each be rounded, pointed, or otherwise suitably shaped to provide an overall intermittent contact surface for interfacing with a support, as will be further described below. In one example, teeth **54** and **94** are substantially identical.

Each of fingers **80** includes a top edge **96** and a bottom edge **98** opposite and, in one example, substantially parallel to top edge **96**. In one example, top edge **96** of a topmost one of fingers **80** is offset from top edge **74** of second jaw **32** toward bottom edge **76** of second jaw **32**, and/or bottom edge **98** of a bottommost one of fingers **80** is offset from bottom edge **76** of second jaw **32** toward top edge **74** of second jaw **32**. The row of teeth **94** of each of fingers **80**, in one example, extends substantially parallel to and is spaced from each of the corresponding top edge **96** and bottom edge **98**. In one embodiment, the row of teeth **94** of each finger **80** is centered between each of the corresponding top edge **96** and corresponding bottom edge **98** of the corresponding finger **80**. Such positioning of row of teeth **94** on each finger **80** places teeth **94** in an inconspicuous location and spaces the various rows of teeth **94** and **54** to provide for rotationally and linearly secure coupling of attachment clip **18** to tree branch **12** (FIGS. **1** and **12**).

Handle portion **82** of second jaw **32** extends away from spine **78** and, in one example, is curved, angled, flared, or otherwise transitioned outwardly in a direction away from fingers **80** and away from second jaw **32**, as considered upon assembly of attachment clip **18**, to a longitudinally extending free edge **100**. Since handle portion **82** is positioned on an opposite side of spine **78** relative to fingers **80**, handle portion **82** is configured for user interaction therewith such that user interaction with handle portion **82** causes corresponding inverse movement of fingers **80** as first jaw **30** is rotated about elongated shaft **16**. For instance, as handle portion **82** of second jaw **32** is moved toward first jaw **30**, fingers **80** of second jaw **32** move away from first jaw **30**. In this manner, handle portion **82** may be formed in any suitable manner to encourage easy user interaction therewith to manipulate fingers **80** of attachment clip **18** during use. In one example, handle portion **82** presents a broad and angular planar external surface **102** for easy grasping or pushing by a user. Handle portion **82** additionally defines an internal surface **104** opposite external surface **102** and facing second jaw **32**.

In one embodiment, sliding each of first jaw **30**, second jaw **32**, and ornament **14** onto elongated shaft **16** assembles ornament assembly **10**. In one example, first jaw **30** and second jaw **32** are aligned within one another prior to being placed on elongated shaft **16**. More specifically, protruding portion **44** of first jaw **30** is placed between the two protruding portions **84** of second jaw aligning any apertures (e.g., apertures **86**) with the apertures in the other protruding portions **44** and **84**. In other examples, protruding portions **44** and **84** may otherwise be configured relative to one another while remaining

adjacent to the other of protruding portions **44** and **84** or are otherwise configured as will be apparent to those of skill in the art after reading this application. When protruding portions **44** and **84** are so arranged, fingers **40** and **80** are positioned to be interposed between one another in an alternating configuration, for example, as illustrated in the figures.

In one embodiment, a coil spring **120** is placed to axially align with apertures in protruding portions **44** and **84**. Coil spring **120** includes two free ends **122** (see, e.g., FIGS. **2** and **5**) and **124** (FIG. **10**) on opposite ends of the coiled portion of coil spring **120** and each extends in a radially opposing direction relative to the other to interact with a different one of first jaw **30** and second jaw **32**. Coil spring **120** is, in one example, placed substantially within cutout **46** of protruding portion **44** of first jaw **30** such that the two free ends **122** and **124** extend out of cutout **46** to each interface with a different one of internal surface **64** of first jaw **30** and internal surface **104** of second jaw **32**. In this manner, coil spring **120** is configured to bias fingers **40** of first jaw **30** toward fingers **90** of second jaw **30** and **32** such that fingers **40** and **80** are fully interposed and extend through gaps or voids of the other of first jaw **30** and second jaw **32** defined between adjacent fingers **40** or **80** thereof. In other embodiment, other types of springs or biasing mechanism(s) are used as an alternative to or in addition to coil spring **120**.

When first jaw **30**, second jaw **32**, and coil spring **120** are aligned with one another, elongated shaft **16** is slid through apertures, for example, aperture **66**, in protruding portions **44** and **84** of first and second jaws **30** and **32** and through a center of the coiled portion of coil spring **120**. First end **22** of elongated shaft **16** may be thread through the apertures of attachment clip **18** as described above and may be continually moved therethrough until one or both of bottom edges **36** and/or **76** contact stop **26**, which caps second edge **24** of elongated shaft **16**. In other embodiments, second end **124** of elongated shaft **16** is thread through first jaw **30**, second jaw **30**, and coil spring **120**, with stop **26** being added to elongated shaft **16** after such threading. In one example, coil spring **120** is tightly wound around elongated shaft **16** in a manner also maintaining the longitudinal placement of attachment clip **18** relative to elongated shaft **16**. Other stops or positioning devices may be additionally or alternatively used to secure attachment clip **18** longitudinally in place relative to elongated shaft **16**.

Either before or after attachment clip **18** is secured about elongated shaft **16**, ornament **14** is statically or otherwise suitably secured to first end **22** of elongated shaft **16**. Ornament **14** may be frictionally secured to first end **22** and/or secured to first end **22** with adhesive, welding, plastics, or other fasteners as will be apparent to those of skill in the art. In one example, elongated shaft **16** maintains ornament **14** spaced above attachment clip **18** a distance at least equal to an height of attachment clip **18**, for instance, a distance at least equal to twice a height of attachment clip **18**. In one embodiment, ornament is only coupled to attachment clip **18** via elongated shaft **16**.

In one embodiment, ornament **14** may be animated or otherwise coupled to elongated shaft **16** to allow rotation or other appropriate movement of ornament **14** relative to elongated shaft **16**. In one embodiment, where ornament **14** includes an electrical component, cord **20** of ornament **14** is tucked between spine **78** and external hook **88** to maintain cord **20** close to elongated shaft **16** in a manner decreasing any detrimental impact of the cord **20** on the overall aesthetic presentation of ornamental assembly **10**. In one example, placing cord **20** between spine **78** and external hook **88** includes pushing cord **20** over protruding nub **89** and into the void between spine **78** and external hook **88** such that cord **20** is less likely to be inadvertently pulled from its storage position.

Upon construction, ornament assembly **10** is ready for use. A support structure such as tree branch **12** as illustrated in FIGS. **1** and **12** is selected as a desired place for coupling ornament **14** thereto. In one example, support structure is substantially circular in cross-section; however, other shaped support structures may also be selected to support ornament assembly **10**.

Additionally referring to the top view of FIG. **12**, teeth **54** of first jaw **30** and teeth **94** of second jaw **32** each provide attachment clip **18** with an intermittent and non-planar surface for grasping tree branch **12** or other support structure. In this manner, teeth **54** and **94** facilitate forming a more secured coupling of attachment clip **18** with tree branch **12**, thereby, decreasing at least vertical slippage of attachment clip **18** and all of ornament assembly **10** along tree branch **12**. As previously described, each of first jaw **30** and second jaw **32** rotates about elongated shaft **16** relative to the other of first jaw **30** and second jaw **32** and fingers **40** and **80**, thereof, are biased toward each other in the closed position of FIGS. **1-8**. In one example, rather than both of first jaw **30** and second jaw **32** rotating about elongated shaft **16**, only one of first jaw **30** and second jaw **32** rotates about elongated shaft **16** and the other of first jaw **30** and second jaw **32** is statically coupled with elongated shaft **16**.

To couple ornament assembly with tree branch **12**, opposing forces, which are generally indicated by arrows **130** in FIG. **7**, are applied to handle portions **42** and **82** of first and second jaws **30** and **32** to push handle portions **42** and **82** toward each other. As handle portions **42** and **82** are moved toward each other, fingers **40** and **80** of first jaw **30** and second jaw **32** move apart from one another to transition the attachment clip **18** to the open position of FIGS. **9-11**. While in the open position, attachment clip **18** can be relatively easily placed over tree branch **12** or other suitable support structure.

When attachment clip **18** is in the desired position to place ornament **14** at the desired height and rotation relative to tree branch **12**, opposing forces **130** (FIG. **7**) are removed from first jaw **30** and second jaw **32**, such that the bias imparted on first jaw **30** and second jaw **32** by coil spring **120** moves attachment clip **18** back toward its closed position of FIGS. **1-8**. Referring to FIG. **12**, first and second jaws **30** and **32**, more specifically, rows of teeth **54** and **94**, contact outside surfaces of tree branch **12** in a manner stopping attachment clip **18** from returning completely to the fully closed position of FIGS. **1-8**. Rather, the biasing force from coil spring **120** clamps rows of teeth **52** and **94** around tree branch **12** securing ornament assembly **10** to tree branch **12** in a secure and substantially static manner. In one embodiment, upon positioning, tree branch **12** and elongated shaft **16** extend substantially parallel to one another. Finally, cord **20** is plugged into a power source in embodiments wherein ornament **14** includes an electrical component to power ornament **14**.

The curvilinear and selectively interposed fingers **40** and **80** and teeth **54** and **94** of attachment clip **18** provide ornament assembly **10** with flexibility for use with a relatively large variety of sizes of tree branches **12** or other supports. More specifically, as illustrated in FIG. **12**, the curvature of fingers **50** and **80** and rows of teeth **54** and **94** allow for significant contact between rows of teeth **54** and **94** and curved outer surfaces of tree branch **12** even where tree branch **12** is sufficiently large to maintain free ends **50** of fingers **40** spaced from free ends **90** of fingers **80**. As will be appreciated by those of skill in the art upon reading this application the amount of contact between teeth **54** and **94**

wrapped around tree branch **12** is much greater than for linear fingers or teeth arrangements of prior art clips. The increased contact between fingers **40** and **80** and tree branch **12** provides for a more secure coupling of attachment clip **18** and all of ornament assembly **10** to tree branch **12** at least decreasing vertical slippage of attachment clip **10** and all of ornament assembly **10** along tree branch **12**.

The interposed fingers **40** and **80** also increase effectiveness of attachment clip **18** over a wide range of support sizes. For example, referring to FIG. **13**, when attachment clip **18** is used with a tree branch **212** that is smaller than tree branch **12** of FIG. **12**, the interposed arrangement of fingers **40** and **80** allows free ends **50** of fingers **40** to pass through voids between fingers **80** and free ends **90** of fingers **80** to pass through voids between fingers **40**. This movement, as opposed to prior art clips where free edges **50** and **90** would contact each other in a manner preventing further movement of free edges **50** and **90** toward and beyond one another, allows teeth **54** and **94** of attachment clip **18** to also contact outside surfaces of a significantly smaller tree branch **212**, thereby, increasing the functionality and overall usefulness of attachment clip **18**. The curvature of fingers **40** and **80** additionally increases securement of attachment clip **18** on branch **212** even where fingers **40** and **80** are at least partially interposed with one another as shown in FIG. **13**.

Although the invention has been described with respect to particular embodiments, such embodiments are meant for illustrative purposes only and should not be considered to limit the invention. Various alternatives and changes will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art upon reading this application. Other modifications within the scope of the invention and its various embodiments will be apparent to those of ordinary skill.

What is claimed is:

1. An ornament assembly comprising:

an attachment clip including:

a first jaw including a first spine and a first finger curvilinearly extending from the first spine, and

a second jaw including a second spine and a second finger curvilinearly extending from the second spine toward the first finger;

an elongated shaft including a first end and a second end opposite the first end, wherein the second end of the elongated shaft is coupled to each of the first spine and the second spine such that at least one of the first jaw and the second jaw rotates about the elongated shaft to move the attachment clip between an open position, in which the first finger and the second finger are spaced from one another, and a closed position, in which the first finger and the second finger are positioned adjacent one another; and

an ornament coupled to the first end of the elongated shaft such that the ornament is spaced from the attachment clip via a length of the elongated shaft;

wherein:

the first finger is one of at least two first fingers, and

when the at least one of the first jaw and the second jaw are in the closed position, the at least one second finger is interposed between the at least two first fingers.

2. The ornament assembly of claim **1**, wherein:

the first spine includes at least one first protrusion extending inwardly from a remainder of the first spine,

the second spine includes at least one second protrusion extending inwardly from a remainder of the second spine,

the first jaw is positioned relative to the second jaw to align the at least one first protrusion with the at least one second protrusion, and

the elongated shaft extends through each of the at least one first protrusion and the at least one second protrusion such that the first jaw and the second jaw are rotatably coupled to one another via the elongated shaft.

3. The ornament assembly of claim **2**, further comprising a spring coiled around the elongated shaft and interacting with each of the first jaw and the second jaw to bias the at least one of the first jaw and the second jaw in the closed position.

4. The ornament assembly of claim **1**, wherein:

the first finger defines a first internal surface and includes a single row of first teeth extending along at least a majority of a first length of the first finger, and

each tooth in the row of first teeth extends inwardly from the first internal surface.

5. The ornament assembly of claim **4**, wherein:

the second finger defines a second internal surface and includes a row of second teeth extending along at least a majority of a length of the second finger, and

each tooth in the row of second teeth extends inwardly from the second internal surface.

6. The ornament assembly of claim **4**, wherein the single row of first teeth is centered between two opposing elongated edges of the first finger such that each tooth in the single row of first teeth is spaced from the two opposing elongated edges of the first finger.

7. The ornament assembly of claim **1**, wherein:

the second finger defines an internal surface and includes a row of teeth extending along a substantial entirety of a length of the second finger, and

each tooth in the row of teeth extends inwardly from the internal surface.

8. The ornament assembly of claim **1**, wherein the elongated shaft maintains the ornament spaced above the attachment clip a distance at least equal to a height of the attachment clip.

9. The ornament assembly of claim **1**, wherein the elongated shaft maintains the ornament spaced above the attachment clip a distance at least equal to twice a height of the attachment clip.

10. The ornament assembly of claim **1**, wherein the ornament is coupled to the first jaw and the second jaw only via the elongated shaft.

11. The ornament assembly of claim **1**, wherein:

a void is defined between the at least two first fingers, and

when the attachment clip is in the closed position, the second finger extends through the void to an opposite side of the first jaw.

12. The ornament assembly of claim **1**, wherein the elongated shaft has a continuous cross-sectional shape from the first end to the second end.

13. An ornament assembly comprising:

an attachment clip including:

a first jaw including a first spine and a first finger curvilinearly extending from the first spine, and

a second jaw including a second spine and a second finger curvilinearly extending from the second spine toward the first finger;

an elongated shaft including a first end and a second end opposite the first end, wherein the second end of the elongated shaft is coupled to each of the first spine and the second spine such that at least one of the first jaw and the second jaw rotates about the elongated shaft to move the attachment clip between an open position in which the first finger and the second finger are spaced from one

another, and a closed position in which the first finger and the second finger are positioned adjacent one another; and

an ornament coupled to the first end of the elongated shaft such that the ornament is spaced from the attachment clip via a length of the elongated shaft;

wherein:

the second jaw includes an external hook opposite the first jaw,

the ornament includes an electrical cord extending therefrom, and

the electrical cord is clipped to the second jaw via the external hook.

14. A decorative assembly comprising:

a decorative element;

a rigid rod defining and linearly extending between a first end and a second end of the rigid rod, the decorative element being secured to the first end of the rigid rod;

a clamp including a first clamp member and a second clamp member, wherein:

each of the first clamp member and the second clamp member includes a spine portion rotatably coupled about the second end of the rigid rod,

each of the first clamp member and the second clamp member includes at least one finger extending away from a corresponding spine portion to an opposite free end with a curvature toward the other of the first clamp member and the second clamp member,

the first clamp member and the second clamp member are each biased toward a closed position, and

when in the closed position, the at least one finger of the first clamp member crosses the at least one finger of the second clamp member between the spine portion of the first clamp member and the opposite free end of the at least one finger of the first clamp member.

15. The decorative assembly of claim **14**, wherein the rigid rod spaces the decorative element from the clamp a distance at least equal to a height of the clamp.

16. The decorative assembly of claim **14**, further comprising a coil spring wound about the rigid rod within a cutout of a first protruding portion of the spine portion such that each opposing end of the coil spring contacts a different one of the first clamp member and the second clamp member.

17. The decorative assembly of claim **14**, wherein:

the at least one finger of the first clamp member defines a first internal surface and includes a single row of first teeth extending along at least a majority of a first length of the at least one finger of the first clamp member, and

each tooth in the single row of first teeth extends inwardly from the first internal surface.

18. The decorative assembly of claim **17**, wherein the single row of first teeth is substantially centered between and spaced from each of a first elongated edge and a second elongated edge of the at least one finger of the first clamp member.

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